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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking, y'all

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND THE CHURCH

Learning and Gathering Opportunities for This Week

Greetings to you all,

As we move into the first week of May, please remember the following opportunities:

Invite all churches leaders to join us for this special Zoom conversation on Tuesday evening which is so important as we live through these trying times. Please note that you need to register for this event.

The Pandemic and Mental Health: Zoom Conversation for the Southeast Conference

Monday, May 4, 2020 at 7 pm Eastern/6 pm Central

Anxiety continues - as does the concern for mental health. How do we help ourselves and others cope with the stress – perhaps even greater as states consider opening up various parts of the economy? Are there ways we are able to identify those who are suffering from depression and other mental challenges? Everyone is welcome to join the conversation!

Featured presenter: The Rev. Sarah Lund, UCC Mental Health Network.

Sarah is an ordained minister with standing in the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She serves on the UCC National Staff in a part-time position with the Wholeness Advocacy Team of Justice and Local Church Ministries, serving as the newly created Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice.

Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkfuGurjorHtUoXu9cxH75Opf9j0iuw8sc>

For All Clergy – A hour of Conversations and Prayer

- Tuesdays (May 5, 12, 19, 26): 11:00 a.m. Eastern (10:00 a.m. Central). How might churches re-open and when? What will change? These are the questions that are beginning to emerge. Let's think about this together.
- Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/479440102>

Live Harp Meditations for Ministers

- Thursdays (May 7, 14, 21, 28): 1:00 p.m. Eastern (12:00 Central)
- 20 minutes of meditation with Celtic harp. Silent prayer and reflection following if desired, facilitated by Rev. Jean Norton. (For questions or to sign up for individual Therapeutic Harp Sessions, contact Jean at HeartSongJean@gmail.com.) Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/96976838422>

Next Week, Especially for Specialized Ministers

- Tuesday, April 28: 9:30 a.m. Eastern (8:30 a.m. Central)
- Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/354744689>

ALERT regarding "Zoombombing!"

There are more reports of “Zoombombing” during worship services. This occurs when unwanted individuals break into the Zoom and place unwanted material on the screen. One UCC church in another conference was zoombombed with child pornography during worship!

Since many churches send out the Zoom link on social media, it is open to all.

Here are some tips to consider:

- Always use a meeting password - The password only works if you disable password being embedded in the meeting link.
- Always have at least one co-host, two is better to monitor so the person running the meeting is not trying to monitor as well.
- Use Zoom's waiting room feature – it let's you know who is there
- Mute audio and disable video for meeting attendees
- Turn off screen sharing for everyone but the meeting host/co host (this is a big one)
- Use a unique ID and password for calls (never use your personal meeting ID)
- Update your Zoom apps
- If all else fails, kick someone out or put them on hold
- Disable someone's camera
- Prevent animated GIFs and other files in the chat

However, if something happens, it is best to not try to kick them out but just end the meeting for everyone as fast as you can.

More resources:

- <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/how-to-prevent-zoom-bombing-5-simple-tips/>
- <https://www.pcmag.com/how-to/how-to-prevent-zoom-bombing>
- <https://security.berkeley.edu/resources/cybersecurity-and-covid-19/settings-securing-zoom>
- <https://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-prevent-zoombombing-in-your-video->

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